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REMARKS

By the preceding amendments, the informalities noted by the patent examiner in the specification, on page 3, a informality in the specification, on page 3, and the informality noted by the patent examiner in claim 1 have been corrected.

You are requested to reconsider the rejection of claim 1 as being anticipated by Grundstrom (US 2,127,355) and the rejection of claims 2, 3, and 4 as being unpatentable over Grundstrom in view of Baxter (US 5,918,319). Claim 1, upon which each of the other claims depends, recites that the lower region of each leg portion of the pair of protective pants has "a layer of puncture-resistant material[.]"

Grundstrom teaches, in a paragraph bridging columns 1 and 2, that "[t]he lower portions of the trouser legs 10—10 are tubular members 12—12 secured to the upper portions 11—11" and that "[s]aid tubular members 12—12 may be made of asbestos or other material having the advantage of resisting heat."

The applicants submit that asbestos is not a puncture-resistant material. Grundstrom does not disclose or suggest what "other material" might be instead used. Grundstrom does not disclose or suggest that such "other material" would be puncture-resistant. Grundstrom is not concerned with puncture-resistance. The applicants submit, therefore, that claim 1 is not anticipated by Grundstrom.

The applicants submit, moreover, that no modification of the trousers of Grundstrom in view of Baxter, which merely discloses a protective garment incorporating an abrasion-resistant fabric, would provide the lower region of each leg portion of the modified trousers with "a layer of puncture-resistant material[.]" The applicants submit, therefore, that claims 2, 3, and 4 are not obvious over Grundstrom in view of Baxter.

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Submitting that claim 1 is not anticipated by Grundstrom and submitting that claims 2, 3, and 4 are not obvious over Grundstrom in view of Baxter, the applicants solicit a notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

By Allen J. Hoover
Allen J. Hoover
Reg. No. 24,103

Wood, Phillips, Katz, Clark & Mortimer
Citicorp Center, Suite 3800
500 West Madison Street
Chicago, Illinois 60661-2511
Telephone (312) 876-1800
Facsimile (312) 876-2020
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